



**Maryland-National Capital Park Police
Prince George’s County Division**



DIVISION DIRECTIVE

TITLE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT			PROCEDURE NUMBER PG464.0
SECTION Operational Procedures	DISTRIBUTION A	EFFECTIVE DATE 03/18/17	REVIEW DATE 05/01/21
REPLACES PG464.0 “Mutual Aid Agreement”, issued 10/15/04			
RELATED DIRECTIVES PG464.1	REFERENCES CALEA 1, 2	AUTHORITY <i>S.R. Johnson</i> Chief Stanley R. Johnson	

I. PURPOSE

This directive establishes policy and procedures for the exercise of police authority by officers of this Division off park property in Prince George’s County.

II. POLICY

The responsibility of officers of the Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Prince George’s County Division, is to protect and secure that property within Prince George’s County which is owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (hereinafter “M-NCPPC”), managed or operated by the M-NCPPC, or areas owned by private entities or individuals and leased or otherwise utilized by M-NCPPC (i.e. leased office space, areas governed by use agreements with other agencies, etc.) all within Prince George’s County, Maryland.

Officers of this Division may exercise police authority off park property in accordance with the procedures outlined in the most current Mutual Aid Agreement entered into and between the Commission and Prince George’s County for the coordination of law enforcement responsibilities.

The Mutual Aid Agreement is in effect because of legislation that allows the County and the Park Police to enter into a mutual aid agreement in the event of an emergency. For the purposes of this Agreement, an emergency situation arises when a uniformed or non-uniformed park police officer witnesses’ certain serious criminal or traffic offenses, further defined below.

**MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT
PG464.0**

This Agreement applies to those areas off of park property in Prince George's County, Maryland.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Arrest Power

1. The Park Police shall be authorized to act under the Mutual Aid Agreement whenever the actual or threatened commission of a criminal act or motor vehicle violation poses an immediate danger to a person's life or limb, or an immediate threat of serious property damage, or whenever the failure of a police officer to take immediate action is likely to result in the escape or evasion from apprehension of the perpetrator of a criminal act.
2. The foregoing does not authorize the Park Police to apprehend, detain, or otherwise accost any person when the police officer has not observed the person commit an alleged criminal act, has not come into possession of first-hand knowledge from an eyewitness of the commission of a criminal act that the person, reasonably identified, committed the act, when the person is not identifiable under an outstanding criminal warrant, OR when the police officer has not received instruction from a County Police Officer, by way of identification, to apprehend, detain, or otherwise accost the person.

B. Criminal Violations

1. Officers of this Division may, under certain circumstances, enforce the criminal laws of this state off park property. This directive explains when Park Police Officers may make arrests and what chain of command will be followed when an arrest is made under the Mutual Aid Agreement.

Officers should direct their criminal law enforcement activities to park properties and not actively seek out criminal activity off of park property. However, officers shall take reasonable and necessary action to protect the public from the actions of criminal offenders, subject to the following criteria:

- a. Officers may make an arrest off park property if:
 - 1) The officer witnesses the commission of a crime that may be punished by incarceration; or
 - 2) The officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect committed a crime that may be punished by incarceration.
- b. An off-duty, non-uniformed officer may make an arrest if he/she

**MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT
PG464.0**

witnesses the commission of a life threatening or serious injury threatening crime off park property that may result in incarceration.

2. Officers shall not conduct follow-up investigations of any criminal activities that occur off park property, however, officers must comply with the following reporting requirements:
 - a. All reports, charging documents, etc., must be completed by the end of the officer's tour of duty and filed with the County Police by 1300 hours the next day.
3. It shall be the responsibility of all supervisory officers to continually review the criminal law enforcement actions of their subordinates to ensure compliance with the provisions of this directive. Supervisors shall routinely counsel and instruct their subordinates as to their criminal law enforcement responsibilities.

C. Traffic Violations

1. Officers shall direct their traffic law enforcement activities to park properties and shall not actively seek out traffic law violations off park property. On-duty, uniformed park police officers have jurisdiction off park property to issue a citation or statement of charges for serious traffic offenses that occurs in their presence.
2. Officers shall not conduct follow-up investigations of traffic law violations that occur off park property, however, officers must comply with the following reporting requirements:
 - a. All reports, charging documents, etc., must be completed by the end of the officer's tour of duty and filed with the County Police by 1300 hours the next day.
3. Officers shall not investigate any traffic accident that occurs off of Commission property.
4. It shall be the responsibility of all supervisory officers to continually review the traffic law enforcement actions of their subordinates to ensure compliance with the provisions of this directive. Supervisors shall routinely counsel and instruct their subordinates as to their traffic law enforcement responsibilities.

D. Miscellaneous Incidents

1. Officers shall confine their patrol activities to park properties. Officers

**MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT
PG464.0**

shall not patrol business districts, neighborhoods, or roadways off park property. This section is not intended to prohibit or restrict an officer from conducting a Commission related investigation or providing assistance to another police agency off Commission property.

2. Regardless of park boundaries, officers shall take immediate action to assist any officer in trouble, (i.e. Signal 13) and provide assistance in emergency situations, such as, but not limited to a crime in progress, a serious traffic accident, etc.

E. Reporting

1. All police action taken by Park Police Officers off of park property shall be reported to the County Police in the same manner required of a County Police officer, via police radio and/or telephone.
2. Sufficient quantities of necessary County Police forms and reports will be made available (see Division Directive 464.1 - "Reporting Under Mutual Aid Agreement", for detailed reporting procedures).

F. Communications

1. Park Police officers shall immediately notify County Communications of every police action taken in areas not under Commission jurisdiction.
2. County Police officers will immediately notify Park Police Communications of every police action taken in areas under Commission jurisdiction. Any reports written will be forwarded to the Park Police within seven (7) days.

G. Death Investigation

1. All deaths or serious injuries where death is imminent shall be investigated by the County Police except:
 - a. Death occurring as the result of a Park Police officer utilizing his/her weapon on Commission property;
 - b. Any current death investigation in progress (i.e.-Cold Cases);
2. For all incidents under this heading, the Park Police will complete the initial Crimes Against Persons Report.
3. The on-scene Park Police Investigative Supervisor, or designee, shall coordinate with the County Police Investigator any logistics that may be involved in order for the investigation to proceed.

MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

PG464.0

H. Assistance

Regardless of the location of a serious incident, offense, or other situation not specifically provided for, the technical expertise and personnel capabilities of either police agency shall, upon proper request at the command level, be made available to the other agency. It is the intent of the parties to cooperate and share resources and equipment to the fullest extent possible to reduce crime throughout Prince George's County and to deliver efficient, coordinated police services to its citizens.

I. Certified Agreement Copies

All officers attending court for any case covered by the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Prince George's County shall obtain a certified copy of the Agreement from the Records Management Section, along with the case file, and take it with them to court. Upon returning from court, the certified copy and case file shall be promptly returned to the Records Management Section. If, during the trial, the court, defense attorney or state's attorney desire a copy of the Agreement they may photocopy the certified copy but it must be returned with the report. If the court enters the original certified copy as an exhibit the officer shall notify Records Management Personnel.

End of Document